EASTRY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year

1953

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HOUSING

During the year a total of one hundred and forty-three houses were inspected in detail as laid down in the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations. Except where formal representations under the Housing Acts followed, minor repairs only were asked for, and in two cases only was the service of a statutory notice required.

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	254
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	952
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925-1932	143
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	143
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in any respect unfit for human habitation	79
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable expense	7

2. Remedy of defects by informal action.

Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied by informal action	86

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

(1) Housing Act, 1936, Section 9:-

(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	-
(b) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(i) By owners	-
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	-

(2) Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93:-

(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
(b) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were rendered after service of formal notices:	
(i) By owners	2
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	-

(3) Housing Act, 1936, Section 11:-

(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	5
(b) Number of dwelling-houses demolished	2
(c) Number of dwelling-houses closed in pursuance of an Undertaking given by the owners under Section 11	4
(d) Number of dwelling-houses reconditioned and Undertakings cancelled.	3

WATER SUPPLY

The various parishes of the district are supplied by the East Kent District Water Company, the Margate Corporation Water Undertaking, Ramsgate Corporation Water Undertaking, Westgate and Birchington Water Company and the Deal and Walmer Joint Water Board. The supplies are drawn from deep wells in the chalk, the Margate Pumping Station being situated in the Parish of Wingham.

There has been no shortage of supply during the year and monthly samples taken from the various sources showed the water to be thoroughly satisfactory in quality.

Sixty-one samples of well water were taken and submitted to the County Laboratory; thirty-one were reported to be unfit for drinking and subsequent action resulted in a further twenty houses being provided with a main supply.

The list of houses without a piped supply is kept under constant review and is being steadily reduced to those properties which are situated at a considerable distance from any main and incapable of connection at a reasonable expense. Action is also taken whenever possible to provide an internal supply where water is drawn from an external standpipe and thirty-three such cases have been dealt with during the year.

The following table shows the present position regarding supplies to dwelling-houses in the district. Of the ninety-eight houses shown as being without a piped supply, it is anticipated that fifteen will shortly be connected to mains by schemes now in hand. Furthermore, twenty of the remainder and seventy six of those with standpipes are houses that were placed in Category V in the Housing Survey, that is, they are in a bad state of repair and are likely to be dealt with under the Housing Acts.

WATER SUPPLY (Contd)

Parish:	No. of Dwelling Houses.	No. of houses with piped supply into houses.	No. of houses with main supply by standpipes.	No. of houses without piped supply.
ACOL	69	63	5	1
ASH	794	753	23	18
AYLESHAM	972	972	-	-
EASTRY	506	488	15	3
EYTHORNE	531	524	7	-
GOODNESTONE	151	150	-	1
MINSTER	699	694	2	3
MONKTON	135	123	8	4
NONINGTON	203	192	5	6
NORTHBOURNE	273	262	-	11
PRESTON	205	178	20	7
RIPPLE	91	91	-	-
SARRE	41	37	4	-
SHOLDEN	162	158	-	4
STAPLE	152	141	2	9
STOURMOUTH	95	88	7	-
ST.NICHOLAS	210	197	3	10
SUTTON	225	213	7	5
TILMANSTONE	120	117	3	-
WINGHAM	432	405	22	5
WOODNESBORO'	325	302	15	8
WORTH	236	229	4	3
TOTAL	6627	6377	152	98

DRAINAGE

A close inspection is made of all new drainage work and every length is tested by water, and wherever possible, by ball and mirror. The construction of septic tanks is encouraged wherever practicable and advice given on form and lay-out, but the number of new cesspools constructed still continues to be high. The standards of drainage work which deteriorated during and after the War are slowly improving and every effort is made to work to the recommendations of the Building Research Station and the British Standard Code of Practice.

No. of visits in connection with drainage work	386
No. of water tests	118
No. of mirror tests	88
Existing houses provided with drainage systems	58
" houses, drainage altered or repaired	17
Cesspools constructed	38
Septic tanks constructed	26
Sinks provided	25
Pail closets converted to water closets ...	53

FOOD HYGIENE

The continued high incidence of food poisoning in the country leaves no room for complacency on the subject of food hygiene. Undoubtedly much progress has been made but it is unfortunately clear that all too often the most elementary precautions are ignored in the preparation, handling and distribution of food. Although this may sometimes be attributed to inadequate premises or facilities, it is more often due to a lack of knowledge or of interest on the part of the trader and of the public.

The law is used to enforce the provision of hot water, soap and towel, but it cannot ensure that they are used. The shopkeeper is persuaded to obtain a glass cabinet to protect his unwrapped foodstuffs and then we find only too often that it is used to display cigarettes and wrapped chocolate. During the past year, to meet competition from outside the district, eight bakers have commenced slicing and wrapping their bread. This might be welcomed as an indication of public desire for its protection were it not found that the main attraction is not the wrapping but the fact that the bread is ready sliced.

When the new Food and Drugs Amendment Bill becomes law, additional regulations may be expected covering many aspects of food hygiene, but the ultimate aim is, surely, that all who handle food, whether producers, distributors or consumers, observe certain elementary principles, not from fear of penalties but becuase they understand the need and believe it to be right. This can be achieved only by a process of education - to children in schools - and to adults through all available sources.

All food premises in the district are visited at varying intervals and the following list shows the number of different types of premises involved:-

Restaurants	38
Bakehouses	18
Butchers	14
Grocers	37
Fishmongers	4
Confectioners	12
General Shops	25

MILK

There are twenty registered milk distributors in the district, six having dairy premises and eight trading from other districts. With the exception of a few gallons, all milk is delivered in bottles filled and sealed on registered premises. The trend has continued for the smaller dairymen to obtain supplies already bottled from large dairies and all but a few gallons daily of the milk sold in the district is either pasteurised or from tuberculin tested herds.

Sampling.

	No. of Samples.	Unsatisfactory Results.
Tuberculin Tested	26	4 samples failed the Methylene Blue Test.
Pasteurised	28	3 samples failed the Methylene Blue Test.
Undesignated	8	1 sample failed the Methylene Blue Test.

A sample is taken every six months from every source of milk sold in the district which has not been pasteurised. Thirty-four such samples were taken during the year and all were negative.

The following licences were granted by the Eastry Rural District under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations:-

Tuberculin Tested	(Dealers)	6
" "	(Supplementary)	8
Pasteurised	(Dealers)	9
"	(Supplementary)	8
Sterilised	(Dealers)	2

ICE-CREAM

There are now eighty-two premises in the district registered for the sale of ice-cream and in all of these the ice-cream is pre-wrapped. None is now manufactured in the district and the practice for supplies to be obtained from a small number of large manufacturers has continued. In view of this the number of samples has been reduced.

During the year national publicity was given to the risk of metallic poisoning from the consumption of ice lollies arising from contamination during manufacture where metal moulds were used. From a survey made in the Rural District it was found that lollies were being sold from sixty-four premises. In three cases only were the lollies made on the premises and in each instance a plastic mould was used. At the remaining sixty-one premises the lollies were obtained from manufacturers outside the district.

Results of Sampling

Number taken:	Grade I.	Grade II.	Grade III.	Grave IV.
18	13	1	4	-

KNACKERS YARD

There is one Knackers Yard in the district, situated at Ashley in the Parish of Sutton. Structural and other improvements commenced in the previous year have been continued and no complaints of nuisance were received.

The number of animals killed has been fewer than in recent years, except for a period following the February floods when large numbers of drowned animals were received.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

As was anticipated, efforts to establish new camping sites have continued, but there has been no increase in the number of residential caravans. Although the use of caravans as permanent dwellings is not encouraged, licences for a limited number have been granted, but at no time have these been fully taken up. In all new sites, the types of dwellings permitted are strictly limited to proper trailer caravans and tents and during the year action was taken to bring older sites into line with these conditions.

There are now six camping sites established in the district which are licensed annually to accommodate a total of two hundred and seventy-nine moveable dwellings. These are:-

Smugglers Leap, Minster.
Sandhills, Sholden.
Sutton Vale, Sutton.
Thanet's Caravan Park, Acol.
Walters Hall, Monkton.
Wayside, Minster.

In addition to these, twelve licences have been granted in respect of individual dwellings.

PUBLIC HOUSES

During 1952 a detailed survey was made of the sixty-five public houses in the district, following which informal discussions were held with the breweries concerned with a view to securing the many improvements found to be necessary With a few exceptions the response to this method of approach has been disappointing and unless more positive progress is made it may be necessary for formal action to be taken either under the provisions of the Public Health Act or in co-operation with the Licensing Justices.

The following are improvements that have been carried out since the initial report was submitted:-

Sinks with drainage provided at bars	7
Hot water provided	9
Water Closets provided	3
Sanitary accommodation improved	4

HOP PICKERS' CAMPS

Six Hop Pickers' camps in the district were occupied during the season and conditions were generally satisfactory. As in past years, each camp is visited at least two months before picking commences in order to allow ample time to carry out any structural work required. In spite of this the preparation of camps is invariably left until the pickers are about to arrive.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

Verminous conditions were found in fifteen houses and each was successfully disinfested with the use of a proprietary insecticide.

Bed Bugs	three houses.
Fleas	seven houses.
Cockroaches	five houses.

RODENT CONTROL

The year has been remarkable for the unusually low level of infestation that has existed throughout the district and has continued right up to the end of the year. It is fortunate that this has coincided with the loss by transfer to another department of the services of Mr. Hearn, who had been Rodent Officer since 1946. His efficiency in the work and knowledge of the district acquired over a period of years will not be easily replaced.

The use of Warfarin, almost to the exclusion of all other poisons has continued, and results have been consistently successful. It has also been noticeable during the year that a considerable number of farmers are now treating their premises themselves with Warfarin; time alone will show whether this is a practice to be encouraged.

RODENT CONTROL (Contd)

Summary of Work for the year 1953

No. of properties inspected.	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agric. Property.	Business Premises	Total
(a) Following complaint:	2	80	32	35	149
(b) In course of Survey:	2	137	426	60	625
No. of properties found to be infested.					
Major:	-	-	32	8	40
Minor:	4	114	60	31	209
No. of properties treated by Council's Operators:	4	144	112	37	297

OTHER DUTIES

In addition to the statutory duties under the Sanitary Officers Orders, the Senior Sanitary Inspector is the Council's authorised officer under the Pet Animals Act, 1951, and the Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations, 1953.

Other duties include administration in connection with the Cinematograph Acts and the licensing of premises for Music and Dancing. The New Cinema, Aylesham, is regularly inspected for the condition of sanitary accommodation and fire precautions.

COMPLAINTS

During the year complaints have been received on the following matters:-

Housing Defects	31
Drainage	25
Accumulations	4
Keeping of Animals	2
Vermin	19
Miscellaneous	12
Total	93

INSPECTIONS

The number of inspections made does not necessarily reflect either the amount or the effectiveness of the work carried out, but the following list gives an indication of the proportion of time devoted to the various duties carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors:-

In connection with the Housing Acts ...	952
In connection with the Public Health Acts	960
Drainage	386
Water Supply	155
Dairies	35
Food Shops	141
Restaurants	75
Bakehouses	88
Ice-cream premises	62
Factories	77
Hop Pickers'	67
Infectious Disease	35
Verminous Premises	31
Shops Acts	53
Moveable Dwellings	172
Knackers' Yard	40
Public Houses	81
Rats & Mice	77
	3487